

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 026767

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY WARSAW

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 026767

FOLLOWING REPEAT MOSCOW 1705 ACTION SECSTATE INFO
LENINGRAD 05 FEB

QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 1705

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OTRA, MILI, SCUL, UR

SUBJ: PROPOSED NATIONAL WAR COLLEGE VISIT

REF: STATE 23459

1. EMBASSY SEES NO OBJECTION TO THE PROPOSED MWC
VISIT (REFTEL) AND BELIEVES PUTTING IT INTO THE
CONTEXT OF AN EXCHANGE INCREASES THE CHANCES OF
SOVIET RECEPTIVITY.

2. WE WOULD SUGGEST THAT THE REFERENCE AT THE END
OF THE SECOND PARAGRAPH OF THE AIDE MEMOIRE TO
"UNITED STATES AIR FORCE AIRCRAFT" BE CHANGED TO
"UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT AIRCRAFT." AS DEPARTMENT
IS AWARE, SOVIETS HAVE MADE CLEAR THEIR OBJECTION TO
THE USE OF AIRCRAFT WITH MILITARY MARKINGS FOR EMBASSY
SUPPORT FLIGHTS. THEY HAVE ALSO SEEMED SENSITIVE TO
ANY MENTION IN OFFICIAL CORRESPONDENCE THAT SUCH
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PAGE 02 STATE 026767

AIRCRAFT ARE OPERATED BY THE AIR FORCE. IF THERE IS

NO POSSIBILITY FOR THE NWC GROUP TO TRAVEL IN AN UNMARKED AIRCRAFT, WE COULD INFORM THE MFA ORALLY AT TIME OF PRESENTING AIDE MEMOIRE THAT U.S. GOVERNMENT AIRCRAFT WOULD BE OPERATED BY AIR FORCE AND WOULD BEAR MILITARY MARKINGS BUT NOT CAMOUFLAGE (A CAMOUFLAGED AIRCRAFT USED ON A SUPPORT FLIGHT APPARENTLY CAUSED THE ORIGINAL SOVIET OBJECTION TO MILITARY MARKINGS).

3. WE BELIEVE THIS APPROACH WOULD MAXIMIZE THE CHANCES OF A FAVORABLE RESPONSE ON THIS ASPECT OF THE PROPOSAL. IT WOULD ALSO GIVE EMBASSY A HANDLE ON THE BROADER QUESTIONS OF MOVING AWAY FROM THE SOVIET FIXATION ABOUT NOT ACKNOWLEDGING THE AIR FORCE PROVENANCE OF THE AIRCRAFT USED FOR SUPPORT FLIGHTS.
DUBS UNQUOTE KISSINGER

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